

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 3 and AMEND claims 1 and 4-6 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method for protecting against packet losses in packet-oriented data transmission, comprising:

storing n data packets in a memory together with end-of-packet information;

transmitting the data packets from a transmitter to a receiver with ~~an item of a flag byte~~ providing end-of-packet information in-at the end of each data packet;

converting at the transmitter, after said transmitting of the data packets, the stored data packets into n equal-sized data packets, each having a length equal to a longest one of the data packets, by filling with known padding data and then converting the n equal-sized data packets into redundancy packets by coding;

transmitting the equal-sized redundancy packets;

obtaining reproduced data packets from received data packets including the end-of-packet information received from the transmitter by the receiver, if no packet has been lost during transmission;

converting, if at least one packet is lost during the transmission and this error is correctable, all of the received data packets into equal-sized reconstructed data packets, by filling with the known padding data; and

obtaining at the receiver, if at least one lost packet is not received and this error is correctable, the reproduced data packets from the equal-sized reconstructed data packets, the end-of-packet information and at least one equal-sized ~~redundant~~ redundancy packet received from the transmitter to replace the at least one lost packet.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end-of-packet information is provided by stating the packet length in the respective packet header.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1,
wherein, if no packet was lost, removing the flag byte from the reproduced data packets
~~are obtained by removing the flag byte~~, and

wherein, if at least one packet was lost and this error can be corrected, ~~the reproduced data packets are obtained from the equal-sized reconstructed data packets and the at least one equal-sized redundancy packets by removing the flag byte and any subsequent padding data from the reproduced data packets.~~

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for protecting against packet losses in packet-oriented data transmission, comprising:

a transmitter to form and transmit data packets with a flag byte providing end-of-packet information ~~in-at the end of~~ each packet prior to generating redundancy packets; and

a receiver to receive the data packets from said transmitter, remove the end-of-packet information and, only if a data packet was lost during transmission and this error can be reconstructed, expand the data packets with the aid of padding information to form equally long data packets before the end-of-packet information is removed.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for protecting against packet losses in packet-oriented data transmission, comprising:

a transmitter forming and transmitting data packets with a flag byte providing end-of-packet information ~~in-at the end of~~ each packet prior to generating redundant equal-sized packets; and

a receiver receiving the data packets from said transmitter and, if a data packet was not received successfully and can be reconstructed, reconstructing the data packet using at least a corresponding redundant equal-sized packet received from the transmitter.